



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Predicts 55% Turnout for November 7, 2006 General Election

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today predicted 55% of the state's registered voters will cast ballots in the November 7, 2006 General Election. Of that 55%, Secretary McPherson predicts that 44% of the votes cast will be by absentee ballot.

"There are a variety of factors that we took into consideration to arrive at our turnout prediction for next Tuesday's election, including the number of absentee ballots issued by county elections officials, past turnout for similar elections, increase in the number of registered voters and even the weather forecast," explained Secretary McPherson.

The latest registration figures compiled by Secretary McPherson's office indicate 15,837,108 million voters are registered to vote in next Tuesday's election. This is an increase of more than 500,000 registered voters since the 2002 General Election. As of this morning, an informal survey with responses from 54 county elections officials reported more than 5.1 million absentee ballots were issued and over 1.5 voted absentee ballots were received.

"Voting is our most precious right as citizens," said Secretary McPherson. "Today I want to encourage all eligible Californians to get involved in the democratic process, and the best way to do that is to head to the polls on Election Day.

"I am encouraged that the number of registered voters has increased by over 500,000," continued Secretary McPherson. "This tells me that more citizens are becoming involved in the electoral process and are exercising their rights to register and vote. I hope to see all of these new voters casting a ballot on Tuesday."

The following chart lists the turnout percentage of registered voters for Gubernatorial General Elections since 1986:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Votes Cast</u>
2002	50.57%	15,303,469	7,738,821
1998	57.59%	14,969,185	8,621,121
1994	60.45%	14,723,784	8,900,593
1990	58.61%	13,478,027	7,899,131
1986	59.35%	12,833,920	7,617,142

Voters are encouraged to visit the Secretary of State's official election information web site at http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_special5b.htm. The site will allow voters to research information about the propositions, locate their polling place, and study campaign finance reports.